

To the attention of:  
Commissioner Helena Dalli  
Commissioner Johannes Hahn

President of the European Commission  
Ursula Von der Leyen

Honorable President Von der Leyen,

We, Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, are approaching you with this letter to express our deep worry on the concerning budgetary and resource situation of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). In February, the Chairperson of EIGE's Management Board expressed the same concerns in her letter to Commissioner Dalli and Commissioner Hahn.

As you know, EIGE is European Union's knowledge centre on gender equality. Its functioning is crucial in the commitment of the European Union to promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming in all its actions, as is enshrined in Article 8 TFEU. EIGE has unique expert knowledge, research, data and tools that help European policy makers design inclusive and transformative measures. EU Member States count on EIGE's continuous support in the promotion of gender equality and in the implementation of gender equality provisions. EIGE's research and statistics activities, data collection exercises and development of methodological tools are unique and valuable in the Union to keep promoting gender equality and preventing setbacks in making the EU and its Member States truly equal.

Unfortunately, this valuable support of EIGE is now in danger. EIGE has repeatedly asked for 8 new contract agents to be able to fulfil its tasks. The need to reinforce EIGE's capabilities has been shown in several high-level political documents<sup>1</sup> and special reports of the European Court of Auditors<sup>2</sup>, and it has been clearly defined in the results of EIGE's second external evaluation<sup>3</sup> which was completed in November 2022. The evaluation findings clearly state that the current resources allocated to EIGE are not sufficient to fulfil the tasks assigned to it in its Founding Regulation. This is amplified by the increasing demand for support from EIGE to Union institutions and Member States, alongside the specific tasks and operational activities EIGE is expected to achieve.

The growing number of demands and tasks, as well as the high indexation of salaries, the rise in the correction coefficient in Lithuania, the location of EIGE, and the larger economic impact of inflation pose considerable challenges to EIGE's budget in 2023 and 2024. According to EIGE's own assessment, the institute is in a need of EUR 445,238.66 to fulfil the requirements of the current year. In absence of additional funds and staff, EIGE has established a possible list of cuts and/or delays that would include, among others, a study on Beijing+30, gender-sensitive language review, work on sexual and gender-based violence against refugee women,

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<sup>1</sup> Such as European Council Conclusions of 17-21 July 2020 and EP guidelines on the preparation of the 2023 budget.

<sup>2</sup> Special Report 10/2021: Gender mainstreaming in the EU budget: time to turn words into action.

<sup>3</sup> Report available here: [https://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eige\\_2nd\\_external\\_evaluation\\_final\\_report.pdf](https://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eige_2nd_external_evaluation_final_report.pdf)

production of an e-learning tool and Orange the world campaign - in other words, projects that touch upon EIGE's core tasks.

The situation is extremely concerning. It is of utmost importance to ensure that EIGE is capable of carrying out its important work efficiently, meaningfully and effectively. We, the undersigned, therefore ask the Commission to do everything possible to ensure that EIGE has the necessary resources to perform its core task and to adequately respond to the growing number of requests for assistance.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We remain in your disposal for any additional questions.

With respectful regards,

Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN  
Frances FITZGERALD  
Eugenia RODRÍGUEZ PALOP  
Maria Soraya RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS  
Monika VANA